

fight, the budget resolution that eventually came out of conference increased mandatory funding, but left discretionary programs, such as medical care, subject to cuts in future years.

When the joint budget resolution came out of conference, those of us in the House who had been fighting against cuts for veterans health care were encouraged that by engaging in constructive dialogue with leaders of the House, we could come to a resolution that would not leave veterans out in the cold. Today, that sense of encouragement is gone.

Today, the House Rules Committee refused to even consider amendments that would have added veterans' health care funding to a seriously deficient VA-HUD Appropriations bill. I am baffled as to why the Committee would not even allow consideration of an amendment that would have brought funding to the previously promised amount. The amendment, offered by the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee with the support of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee's Health Subcommittee, was clearly bipartisan and would have added \$1.8 billion to veterans health care—the amount agreed to in our final budget resolution.

The President and some of the leaders of this House defend their poor records of veterans health care by claiming that they increased the funding, so that should be good enough. It doesn't take a professional policy degree to figure out that our veterans who served, and continue to serve our country so honorably, are aging. They need clinics. They need doctors. They need appointments to see those doctors soon, not in six months. The need is increasing, but the funding is not keeping up with it. We promised we would help them, and today, this grossly inadequate appropriations bill breaks that promise.

My vote against the VA-HUD Appropriations bill is not only a protest against this harmful cut in health care for our nation's bravest, but also a statement against the promises broken by this body. As my colleague, Representative ROBERT SIMMONS, on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee stated earlier, "an officer's word is his bond." It is a meaningful phrase to many veterans, and one that I hope the House of Representatives can live up to in the future when considering funding for the well being of our veterans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK EVANS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a great American and a former United States Representative for Colorado's Third District. Frank Evans of Beulah, Colorado will celebrate his eightieth birthday this Saturday, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues in wishing him well on this momentous occasion.

Frank was born in Pueblo back in 1923 and has lived a life devoted to serving others. Frank first answered the call to service when he bravely fought to uphold the cause of free-

dom as a Navy patrol pilot during World War II. After returning home, he practiced law in his native Pueblo. Drawn to a life of public service, Frank served in the Colorado State Legislature for four years and then went on to represent the Third Congressional District of the great State of Colorado in this prestigious body. Frank selflessly served the constituents of my district for fourteen years before choosing to leave the Congress. All told, Frank spent eighteen years faithfully representing his fellow citizens of the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, as Frank Evans prepares to celebrate his eightieth birthday, I am privileged to pay tribute to his remarkable life and numerous accomplishments. Frank dedicated many years of service to his friends and neighbors in Colorado. In both the Colorado State Legislature and in this body of Congress, Frank diligently served to meet the needs of his constituents. I am honored to join with my colleagues today in wishing Frank a happy birthday and many more great years ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate the International Brotherhood of Teamsters as they commemorate their 100th anniversary tomorrow, Saturday, September 6, 2003.

The issues the Teamsters have fought for and won over those 100 years are the issues that have strengthened America: equal rights for all workers, regardless of color, creed, or gender; a 40-hour work week; a pension for retirement; paid holidays; employer sponsored healthcare; equal pay for women.

As corporate raiders continue to turn a deaf ear to the needs of America's working families, the 1.4 million members of the Teamsters continue to ensure that the voices of American labor are heard.

I know that in the next 100 years, we can count on the Teamsters to continue their work against unfair trade commitments, from CAFTA to the WTO, that continue to hurt working families in the U.S. and abroad; to continue to protect our roadways from unsafe foreign trucks; to continue protecting the health and safety of America's workforce; and to fight against the current administration's attempts to disqualify hundreds of thousands of Americans from receiving the overtime benefits they fought so hard to gain.

The Teamsters are needed now more than ever as some corporations break labor laws and fight union organizing as they ship jobs out of this country by supporting trade agreements that exploit workers' rights across the globe.

I congratulate the Teamsters on their 100 years of commitment to America's working families, and wish them well in the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, a centennial is an occasion for celebration, in which spirit it is my pleasure to congratulate the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Founded on September 6, 1903, the Teamsters union has grown to become one of the largest and most diversified labor unions in the United States.

Originating as a group representing the men who drove horse-drawn wagons to deliver freight, the Teamsters have grown and changed with the times. In the early decades of the 20th Century, the Teamsters adapted by also representing the drivers of motor trucks. By the beginning of the 21st Century, the Teamsters had diversified to represent truckers, airline workers, building material and construction trades, dairy and food processing employees, parcel and small package workers, public employees working for local governments, and a variety of other workers. With a membership of 1.4 million, one out of every ten union members in the United States is a Teamster.

The Teamsters have served as a model for improving working conditions and wages for the American worker. In 1900, the typical Teamster worked 12 to 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, for an average wage of \$2.00 a day. Worker benefits that did not exist 100 years ago—the 40-hour work week, a retirement pension, paid holidays, and employer-sponsored healthcare—have become the norm for most of American labor, in large part because of the work of the Teamsters.

I congratulate the Teamsters organization on their 100-year long effort to continually improve the quality of life for millions of American workers. To each of their members and their General President, Jim Hoffa, I extend my thanks for their contributions to a strong and productive economy. The Teamsters have my best wishes for their second century.

INSTALLATION OF LOUISE "BEBE" CANTER AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMERICA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Louise "Bebe" Canter, who will be installed as President of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIBA)—later this month in Las Vegas. Bebe is senior vice president of Patterson/Smith Associates in Falls Church, VA.

She has enjoyed a distinguished career as an independent insurance agent which has been highlighted by her tireless service and dedication to her clients, community, IIBA, the Metropolitan Washington Association of

Independent Insurance Agents (MWAIA), and her colleagues across the country.

Bebe was elected to IIABA's Executive Committee in October 1998 and was honored by her peers when they named her President-elect last fall in New Orleans.

Bebe's service to her peers began with her involvement with the Metropolitan Washington Association. She served as MWAIA's president and as the organization's representative to IIABA's National Board of State Directors. In recognition of her outstanding service, MWAIA named her its 1991 Agent of the Year.

In addition to her position on the IIABA Executive Committee, Bebe also serves as a member of the Association's Large Agents & Brokers Roundtable.

Her other industry volunteer work includes service as a member of the D.C. Society of CPCU's Board of Directors and the Standard & Poor's Agent Advisory Council, and chairman of the CNA Branch PACER Agent Panel and the Southern Agents Conference.

Among Bebe's community involvement is service as a member of Howard University's Scholarship Committee.

I am proud of Bebe's professional and community service accomplishments and know she will serve her fellow agents with distinction and strong leadership to further the worthy and noble cause of independent insurance agents and brokers. I bid her a successful year as president of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America. I wish her all the best as IIABA President. Congratulations Bebe!

THE NATIONAL MINORITY MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, JOHN CONYERS, Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, to introduce The National Minority Media Opportunities Act. And I want to thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership on this issue and for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

This bill would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to hold public hearings, with notice and opportunity to comment, before approving the transfer of a license for a station serving a minority-language audience. It also requires the FCC to report to Congress on issues involving the concentration of ownership and control of minority-language broadcast media and the effects of excessive concentration on competition and diversity in these minority-language markets.

The need for this bill has become crystal clear as Chairman Powell continues to try to ram through a huge Spanish-language media merger between Univision and HBC, with no opportunity for public input, with no public deliberation, and with no regard for the impact this mega-merger will have on Hispanic consumers or the Spanish-language media market.

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals has stayed the FCC's new Media Ownership rules,

which Chairman Powell has espoused as providing more protection for minority consumers. So why is it that he is now ramming through a decision on the Univision/HBC merger under the old rules, with no public hearings, and without even a public vote? The only obvious explanation seems to lie in an analysis of political contributions filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Otherwise, there is simply no reason to rush this controversial merger through without adequate public review and without a public vote by the FCC.

The Congress has spoken on the Media Ownership rules, voting to repeal portions of the rule. And now the Congress has spoken on the process by which this ill-advised merger is being considered.

Chairman Powell and the Republican Commissioners owe us some explanations. They owe Congress an explanation of why they have disregarded our requests for openness and public accountability in their decision-making process. They owe the Hispanic community an explanation of why they insist on approving a mega-merger that could have serious consequences for the diversity of information they receive. And they owe the general public an explanation of why they have made the decisions they have made, without any opportunity for meaningful public input and without even a public vote on the issue.

Chairman Powell, you owe it to the Hispanic community to protect our interests. If you're not going to do that, then—at the very least—you owe us an explanation of why you've deserted us.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PAUL SHEPARD

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a beloved member of the Palm Springs community and a dear friend, Mr. Paul Shepard.

This tragic, untimely and unexpected loss will impact not only those who knew and loved Paul, but also, the entire desert community. Paul was one of those rare and precious individuals who truly made a difference in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to meet him, and even some who never had that pleasure. He was a leader in the fight against AIDS, an accomplished real estate professional, a dedicated athlete and an active supporter of numerous charitable causes and service organizations.

Of course, words alone cannot describe the joy that one felt when sharing time with Paul. His warmth and encouraging nature were instantly conveyed when he would greet you with a smile and hug. A remarkably thoughtful person, Paul always seemed to make everyone feel that he was completely focused on their interests, whether in personal or business relationships.

As one of the Coachella Valley's most respected and successful Realtors, Paul Shepard achieved the kind of professional stature that many aspire to but few attain. During his career, he was selected by his peers to serve several times as Director and President of the Palm Springs Board of Realtors. In

addition, he was named "Realtor of the Year" and served also as the Director for the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

However, his business success was only one facet of this talented man. Paul used his abilities to help those in our community who were truly in need. He was an active member of the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce for more than 25 years, served as a member of the City's Parks and Recreation Committee, and on the Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards Gala Committee, and was an integral part of the Steve Chase Program Committee's yearly success.

But, perhaps the one organization that was closest to his heart was the Desert AIDS Project in Palm Springs. Paul was a tireless and passionate advocate for this worthy organization that daily makes lives better for those afflicted with this most challenging disease. As a testament to his commitment to this organization, the Desert AIDS Project has established a special fund in his name. I can think of few tributes that would be more fitting.

I also want to express my condolences and recognize those that Paul loved; his life partner of 25 years, Daniel C. Hall, his mother, Jane Andrews, and sister, Jackie Cadell, and two brothers, Thom and Steve Shepard, along with his stepfather, Gordon Andrews.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand in honor of my friend Paul Shepard. The sadness I feel when I reflect on his passing is softened only by the great respect I have for the legacy he leaves after a life fully lived. I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONEL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 25, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall vote No. 445, final passage vote on H.R. 2427, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes. If I had voted, I would have voted "no."

AUTOMOBILE LEASE PROTECTIONS UNDER THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker. Today I am introducing legislation that will add automobile